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10/523,970	02/08/2005	Tsutomu Nakamura	Q85753	3988
23373 7590 08/29/2008 SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037				
EXAMINER				
MAKI, STEVEN D				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Advisory Action Attachment

new issues

The new issues are:

(1) amending claim 1 to recite "a discontinuous main groove component having an angle of 0° with respect to the circumferential direction" and "wherein in a no-load standard state where the tire is assembled to a standard rim specified in the standards and filled with 80% of the highest internal pressure in accordance with the tire standards, the total groove length of the main component is not less than 50% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion";

(2) amending claim 8 to recite "a discontinuous main groove component C having an angle of 0 with respect to the circumferential direction" and "wherein in a no-load standard state where the tire is assembled to a standard rim specified in the standards and filled with 80% of the highest internal pressure in accordance with the tire standards, the total groove length of the main component is not less than 15% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion";

(3) canceling claim 12 *without* changing dependency of claim 13; and

(4) amending claim 8 to recite "discontinuous main groove component C having an angle of 0 with respect to the circumferential direction" *without* canceling claim 15 which recites "the main groove component C is a groove other than the tilting main groove A and the tilting main groove B, and wherein the main groove component C is at least one linear groove or zigzag groove in the circumferential direction, disposed in the tread center region".

issue of new matter

The issue of new matter is amending claim 8 to recite "discontinuous main groove component C having an angle of 0 with respect to the circumferential direction" *without* canceling claim 15 which recites "the main groove component C is a groove other than the tilting main groove A and the tilting main groove B, and wherein the main groove component C is at least one linear groove or zigzag groove in the circumferential direction, disposed in the tread center region".

remarks

Applicant argues that Japan 105 does not teach grooves at 0 degree angle. Examiner notes that Japan 105 teaches a straight continuous circumferential groove C at the center of the tread.

With respect to claim 3 and Nakagawa et al, applicant argues that the Examiner fails to allege where these claimed features are taught and suggested. Applicant is incorrect. As explained on page 7 of the final office action dated 4-17-08, the claimed "main groove component oriented at an angle of 0-20 degrees" reads on the circumferential groove 4, which Nakagawa et al teaches may extend zigzag or straight (col. 3 lines 33-36). A circumferential groove in a tread center portion has a length of 100% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion. Claim 3 requires a length of at least 50%. The value 100% falls within the claimed range of at least 50%. It is noted that claim 3 reads on the continuous circumferential groove shown in figure 4 and figure 9 of applicant's disclosure.

Applicant asserts that the cited art fails to teach or suggest that, in a no-load standard state where the tire is assembled to a standard rim specified in the standards and filled with 80% of the highest internal pressure in accordance with the tire standards, the total groove length of the main component is not less than 50% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion. Applicant is incorrect. With respect to length not less than 50%, Nakagawa et al teaches a continuous circumferential groove 4 (length of 100%) and Japan 105 teaches a continuous circumferential groove C (length of 100%). It is again noted that claim 3 reads on the continuous circumferential groove shown in figure 4 and figure 9 of applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven D. Maki whose telephone number is (571) 272-1221. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Steven D. Maki/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791

Steven D. Maki
August 27, 2008